



St Mark's Church, Reigate

June 2018

Letter from the Curate, Reverend Anna Moore

Dear Friends

Time is flying by, as I now settle down to write for the June edition of our parish magazine. Liturgically we enter into the long season of 'ordinary' time, where the vestments and altar frontals change to green, which not only represents growth, it can also be associated to new life. Throughout the numerous weeks of Trinity, I think it is important that we cherish this time and note its significance within the Christian calendar. It is a time where we can catch our breath after the whirlwind of seasons from Advent to Christmas, into Epiphany closely followed by Lent, then into Easter, through to Ascension and Pentecost.... Phew!!!.

What can seem a rather bland time in comparison, ordinary time provides opportunity to settle and reflect on all that was experienced through this busy period. This model should also be applied to our personal lives. Very often we can feel like we are on a treadmill with numerous demands that take up our time and energy, it is no wonder that occasionally we feel overwhelmed. There are simply not enough hours in the day to complete all the small jobs that need doing! Alternatively, it could seem as though there is too much time, especially to those who are feeling lonely or have lost their sense of purpose.

Trinity lasts for 21 weeks, it is a perfect time where we too can settle and reflect on our lives; in what we do, what we want and where we would like to be and most importantly, how to achieve it. Jesus knew what was required of him, but despite the demands put on him to perform miracles, heal and teach, it did not prevent him from retreating and spending time alone with God, praying and reflecting on the now and what was to come. He found time with God which centred him and directed him to God's will. In the hustle and bustle of life, God can often get pushed to one side. Trinity is a time for us to re-centre and re-focus on what God wants for us by meditating on what has been and what is to come, and where God is in all of this.

As a person who likes to plan ahead and have all my ducks lined up, more often than not I am always looking ahead to the next task, the next deadline, the next important date in the diary, but in doing this I often miss out on the beauty of living in the present and cherishing God's blessings. For me there are never enough hours in the day and if I dare to take time for myself I often feel guilty as though I should be doing something more productive. There is a wonderful line in Alice through the Looking Glass, where Alice is talking to 'time' after her adventures;

"I used to think time was a thief. But you give before you take. Time is a gift. Every minute. Every second."

Time is not a thief, it just seems that way when the demands on our time become so much that we are driven by the clock. Over this period of Trinity, I would like to encourage all of us to use this 'ordinary' time as a gift, to ask ourselves where we would like our lives to be, what we would like to change, what would we like to do more of, or less of. By allowing this time with God, we are able to open ourselves to new opportunities, and a deeper understanding of ourselves and where God is directing us. This can nurture and transform us in ways that are far from ordinary, but rather extraordinary!

God Bless.

Anna.

Reverend Anna