



St Mark's Church, Reigate

October 2025

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends,

As the seasons shift and autumn colours begin to brighten our hedgerows and gardens, October brings with it a spirit of thankfulness and reflection. The harvest season reminds us of God's generosity and our call to share that abundance with others. Thank you to everyone who contributes so generously to our Harvest Festival – whether through decorations, gifts for the foodbank, or helping to prepare the church.

October is often a month of contrasts. The warmth of summer has faded, and the days grow shorter, yet the beauty of autumn surrounds us in rich colours and fruitful harvests. It is a time when creation seems to remind us both of God's abundant generosity and of the cycles of change that are woven into all our lives.

On the First Sunday this month 5th October, we give thanks for the harvest. As we share with those in need – through foodbanks, charitable giving, and acts of kindness – we live out the truth that all good gifts come from God and are entrusted to us for the good of all.

Later in the month, we turn our thoughts towards remembrance. The festivals of All Saints' and All Souls' invite us to reflect on the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us – the saints who inspire us, and the loved ones we hold in our hearts. In these services, joy and sorrow sit alongside one another, as faith reminds us that death does not have the final word, and that God's love holds us all. Just as autumn prepares the earth for spring, loss can prepare the heart for hope. Death is never the end – God turns every ending into a beginning.

As the evenings draw in, let's not look back with longing for the warmer, brighter days of summer, but remember that every season has its purpose – God works through them all. May this season be for each of us a time of prayer, reflection, and quiet trust. May we learn from the beauty of autumn to let go of what has passed, to give thanks for the present, and to look with hope towards what is to come.

With every blessing,