



St Mark's Church, Reigate

October 2026

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends

October is the month that the clocks change. The month when we reset our clocks from British Summer Time back to Greenwich Mean Time. The pleasure of an extra hour in bed on the Saturday night is quickly replaced with the reality of the nights drawing in.

But what is time? The whole notion of measuring and naming 'time' is a human invention. Calendars (for reckoning intervals of time) and clocks (for measuring its passage) have a long history. The first calendars were lunar, and there's evidence of them as long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt so clearly humans have long felt the need to track the passage of time.

The dictionary definition of time is as 'the indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, into the future.' From a human perspective, time is linear and goes in one direction. What could happen if we were freed from this constraint has long captured writers' imaginations by exploring the idea of being able to travel back in time, or even jump about in it.

So that's what time is like for human beings. But what about for God? Christians believe that God stands outside time. There was never a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't. But even though God exists outside time, and is not subject to it, God reveals Godself within time, because humanity and creation is. Starting with Abraham, God promised that through his descendants, all creation would know God's blessing. Some thousands of years later, and 2,000 years distant from us, God revealed Godself in human flesh, in the person of Jesus, a human being born in a specific place at a specific time.

So as we move through the month of October – and yes the days are shortening and Christmas is getting closer – let us take some time to marvel at the changing of the season and what it brings, and remember that each season and our own time and how we use it, is precious to us.

With my best wishes