

Vicar's Blog

September 2017

From the Curate

September is here and a new school term has already begun. Maybe it stems from my previous days as a teacher, that I remember that feeling of 'starting afresh'. September always feels as if it is a time to start afresh. A newly organised classroom, sharpened pencils, new notebooks, and the hope that the year will go well and that children will be inspired to learn.

When we start afresh, we still remember those things that went well, but also those times when things didn't go quite so well, when we made mistakes and times when perhaps we didn't make good choices, didn't do the right thing.

Beginning a new school year can be a daunting prospect, but also one of excitement and hope. This isn't only true of school of course, beginning a new job, moving home, even retiring, all these events in life can be a mix of anxiety and hope.

Christianity is about new beginnings. Jesus talked about new beginnings, of starting afresh. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians says 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' When we make mistakes, we do wrong, Jesus welcomes us to a new beginning, the old has gone, and the new start is here. We have an opportunity to start all over again. He said that no matter how many times we mess up, if we are truly sorry then God will forgive us and we can start afresh.

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of trust and faith in that new beginning. An acknowledgement of the Love of Jesus, a declaration of our Christian faith and understanding that through Him we have the opportunity for a new beginning, a new birth, to be a new creation. Baptism doesn't mean that we will go through the rest of our lives, without making mistakes of course, we are human and sometimes make wrong decisions, however small. Renewal is a continual process of growing as a Christian.

September indicates the start of a new school term, a new beginning, new hope with challenges ahead. Baptism is a symbol of a new beginning of a journey of faith, full of hope and also challenges, as a person grows as a Christian within the world wide Christian family. A journey where Jesus through his love guides us, continues to renew us, and enables us to start afresh, not just in September but any time, as we grow into the person that He created us to be.

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