*October/November 2022*

**Time passes**

*And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years* (Genesis 1:14).

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease* (Genesis 8:2).

Dear friends,

*Time passes. Listen. Time passes. Come closer now….*

The uncomfortably hot and humid weather only ceased a month or so ago, but it already seems a long time. As Dylan Thomas wrote, ‘Time passes…’ So, as we enter autumn and give thanks for the harvest, we are reminded of the changing seasons, the moving of time, and the cyclic continuum of our earthly world.

On a natural, cosmic level, the positioning of the stars, planets and their moons, gives us day and night, months and seasons by which we live our lives. Even when it is dark for us; winter as a season, night as a time of day, it is light for others. The sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren ‘neath a western sky…, as the hymn gloriously reminds us. Even when we are sleeping, others in the world are awake in light and praising the Lord.

Our calendar year, split into months is, as the name suggests, taken from the travels of the moon, linking us to the glories of the cosmic world. We use the divisions of seasons, months, weeks and days to order our lives. Some of us have in addition to these natural partitions, the academic calendar; an additional division of time, to which to work. And of course, as Christians we have the church calendar: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, alongside our traditional harvest and remembrance services, St George’s and St David’s days, and church anniversary to mark the year. All of this gives both regiment and comfort. Without the division of time we would live in chaos. We all know that our worship begins at 10:30hrs. on a Sunday, Deacon’s and Church Meetings are set in advance, we make arrangements and book holidays according to our calendars. Our calendars give us order, and the seasons are integral to this.

And it is to the seasons that our lives can be likened. Spiritually, Spring represents a time of joy and glory after dormancy and hardships. A time of pruning. A time when God shapes and moulds His people. Summer represents a time of spiritual dryness. A time of needing more spiritual food than usual to stay replenished. True Christians come out of this season stronger. Others may stumble, sometimes permanently during the barren heat. As we enter Autumn we experience a time of harvest when we bear our fruits. But more correction and shaping from God is required to prepare us for the long winter season. We then arrive at Winter, a long, dreary season. Some may view this period as negative, but surely we should not only use the days wisely to reflect on what has been, but we should also look forward. Forward with hope and joy to the glories that will surely lie ahead. For as we sleep, again from the hymn, fresh lips are making Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

All of this in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Your friend in Christ,

Gwyn.