

October Pastoral Letter from Deacon Sue

Dear friends.

Our Messy Church theme for September was “New Beginnings” and as our season changes and once again we wind down to Autumn it feels like a new beginning. The summer has passed by, our schools, colleges and universities have begun yet another academic year and for all of us there is the prospect of shorter days and dark nights. It’s not always the easiest time of year for many.

However, there is much to look forward to at St Mary’s and in equal measure a great deal to be thankful for. It is easy to come to God in our time of need when we want his help but how often do we thank him for the things he provides for us? We so often have new beginnings and yet forget to be thankful.

Ephesians 5:20 tells us “Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”. There are many other times the bible reminds us we need to give thanks to God.

Saying thank you, to God in particular, can make such a difference. We give thanks to God not just to be polite, but to appreciate that he is our provider. This avoids taking him for granted, gives him his rightful place and makes us more and more aware of his involvement in every situation.

I saw an idea that I thought would be a good challenge for us here at St Mary’s:

A Jar of Thanksgiving



For each household to take a jar and every day for a month write on a piece of paper something that you are grateful for and pop it in the jar. It’s a wonderful way to give us encouragement when we need it and to make us grateful for the wonderful things that are surround us. Also during these longer colder days to come, it helps to take them out and read just how many things God provides for us.

We teach our children from a young age to say thank you, and yet sometimes we forget ourselves that the Lord provides for us every day.

May all your Jars of Thanksgiving be overflowing with gratitude and love.

With every blessing

Deacon Sue

