

Dear Grayshott,

September 2019

Change is all around us, the national uncertainty continues, but with new leadership and a different political stance. Last Night of the Proms is on us, our schools face a new academic year, children are going to school for the first time, new classes and new challenges. Perhaps the deals on new stationery in the shops brings back a feeling we know from our own school years. For some, they are off to University with the challenges of living independently, and for some the autumn feels daunting, facing loneliness as the nights draw in.

At St Luke's, in our recent Sunday services, we have been thinking about what spiritual maturity looks like, and how to grow our faith. Faith is what we employ when we act on the basis of trust. In life, to achieve things it is useful to set goals, but sometimes we don't act. A recent Radio 4 'All in the Mind', about 'Procrastination', exploring how it can be overcome, said one reason for not doing things is a fear of failure. This comes from a view that we have to be a success at everything. A results-based education leads to setting visible goals of achievement we can tick off, 8 A*'s, a first class degree, financial success, etc.. Setting goals of character lead to the growth of inner, secret qualities that lead to better relationships, and faithfulness that spreads joy in the community.

My reading of Jesus in his teaching, is that he is always interested in the motives of the heart. Speaking to headteachers, this is the gold standard, equipping character in children. Charity is the old word for self-giving generous, patient and kind love. It is this that builds our community.

In this new season there are many requests for volunteers, in the Square Events, Scouts, Donkey Mews, Meals on Wheels, and more. There are those who need help practically, financially, and emotionally. Let us review how we can make a difference, and share our resources to encourage the next generation, and those who need a helping hand.

Do come and join us on our journey of discovery and worship.

Jeremy Haswell