

St Clement's Monthly News

September 2026

'There is a story of a Jewish rabbi who asked those he taught how the night had become day. One said it was when he could see the shape in the distance was either a dog, or a sheep, another said it was when he could see all the lines on the palm of his hand, and another said it was when he could see the leaves on the tree in front and know which tree it was. But the rabbi answered, "It is when you can look into the face of any man or woman and know that they are your true brother or sister; until you can do that it is still night.'*

Jesus taught us to love God and love our neighbour. It sounds so simple but in our own strength it's impossible. We need God's help to do both and we need to ask God for his help each day. Jesus tells us in John's gospel 'apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15.5). Without God's help we can't love all those people in our lives God calls us to love. Jesus calls us to love even our enemies, to pray for them and to bless them (Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27-28). It's a radical call which is the litmus test of our faith. The way we treat one another in the church community and in our daily lives is vital to our spiritual health.

It's not easy to love our neighbour, especially those who might annoy us, but we love because Jesus has told us to love everyone, even those who might be enemies. The famous Carmelite saint, Theresa of Avila wrote: 'The Lord only asks only two things of us: love for His Majesty and love for our neighbour. These are the two virtues we must strive for and if we keep these commandments perfectly, we are doing God's will and are united to Him. But how far we are from doing them in the way we ought for so great a God. *The surest proof we have that we are really loving God is that we love our neighbour.* We cannot be sure that we love God, though there may be indications that we do, but we always know if we are loving our neighbour or not. The greater our love for our neighbour, the greater our love for God.' I find St. Theresa's words both challenging and inspiring. They are also very grounding - we may not know whether we are loving God but we always know if we are loving our neighbour or not. If we are loving our neighbour we can be confident that we are sharing in the overflowing love that God has for us and our neighbour.

Jesus has made us his neighbour. As St. Paul puts it in his letter to the Colossians (1.21), once we were estranged from God and hostile to God but our Lord Jesus Christ has reconciled us to God through his death. In some translations Paul says we were 'enemies'. But Jesus has transformed that damaged relationship from enmity to neighbourliness. We are called by Jesus to extend that work in our lives and in our relationships. It is not easy because loving is never easy but it is at the heart of our faith and vital to our lives as fellow disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. May he lead us from night to day, that we may see his image in one another and love him in our neighbour (see Matthew 25.31-46).

*This story is taken from *Letters from Nazareth* by Richard Carter

Diary for September

Tue 1 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 2 nd	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	2.00pm	Mothers' Union Service
Fri 4 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 5 th	10.00am	Working Party at church
Sun 6th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship Branch Church
Mon 7 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 8 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 9 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	7.30pm	Choral Society Concert in Church
Fri 11 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 13th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 14 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 15 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 16 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 17 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.30pm	Men's Group
Fri 18 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 20th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 21 st	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 22 nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 23 rd	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Fri 25 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 27th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 28 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tue 29 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 30 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning

HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH

THE BRANCH CHURCH **HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY** **CENTRE**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH
10.30am Morning Worship

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
Meeting in the Parish Hall
Contact Samantha
5urmstonbrownies@gmail.com

MACMILLAN **COFFEE MORNING**

In The Parish Church

From 11am

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Coffee, refreshments
and Raffle
in support of the local
Macmillan Service

AUCTION SALE **In the Parish Hall**

Saturday October 3rd

Opens at 1pm

Items to be Auctioned for the
Rose Window Appeal to be
brought to the Hall from 9am
on the Saturday morning.