

# A Season of New Beginnings

September often feels like a quiet turning of the page. Schools return, holidays end, and familiar routines begin to reform after the looseness of summer. Even before the leaves change colour, something in the air tells us we are entering a new season. For many, this month feels more like a new year than January ever does — and perhaps that is no accident, for God is always inviting us to begin again, whatever our circumstances.

Across our villages, children and young people are stepping into new classrooms, new subjects, new friendships and new challenges. Some are starting school for the very first time; others are moving up a year or heading off to college or university with suitcases, hopes and nerves in equal measure. We wish every one of them courage, joy and curiosity. Learning is not only for the young; it is part of Christian discipleship too. We never stop discovering what it means to follow Christ with heart, mind and strength. September is a wonderful time to explore prayer and begin again with God.

We now know that the Reverend Gill Morgan will be our next Rector of the Box River Benefice. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the process, both before and during the two days of interviews, for all their hard work and support. Gill will be installed early next year, so there is still a little waiting to do. However, we are thankful to see how people continue to keep our churches thriving and maintain their regular pattern of worship services. In times of change, it is often helpful to ask ourselves, “What has been working well?” and “What new things might it be good to try?” At the same time, we can take reassurance from Paul’s words to the Philippians: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God.” As we look ahead, we can do so with confidence, trusting in God’s peace and guidance for the future.

This year’s summer has been unusually dry: gardens wilted, fields cracked, and farmers watched the skies with longing. The absence of rain reminded us how dependent we are on creation’s rhythms and how fragile those rhythms can be. Yet even in the dryness, there were moments of beauty — warm evenings, village gatherings, and the simple pleasure of seeing friends and neighbours outdoors. Now, as cooler mornings arrive and the first showers hopefully return, we will be grateful for the soft rain that refreshes the land and restores colour to our countryside.

So, as we step into this new season with hope, we remember that change can be unsettling, but God’s faithfulness does not shift with the calendar. As routines restart and days slowly shorten, we hold fast to the truth that God is present not only in special moments but in the ordinary ones too — washing dishes, going to work, caring for family, meeting neighbours. These small acts are where faith quietly grows. May this September bring new beginnings, renewed gratitude, and a deep sense of God’s steady presence in all the days ahead.

With love in Christ,

Your Ministry Team