

Thought for September

By Margaret Boden Heaume LLM

Autumn is a time of giving thanks for a successful farming year and a time of looking forward to new experiences and changes.

Many people particularly enjoy the

'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness ' with its glorious colours and the chance to enjoy the fruits of the Harvest.

Seeing the church decorated for the Harvest Festival is a great joy and we can all enjoy the social aspect of the Feast with a Bring and Share Lunch to be held this year on the 5th of October.

September is also a time when children face the excitement and challenge of moving to new Schools and Universities.

Young people can be somewhat apprehensive about changes to routine and location, only to settle in and find new friends and interests soon allay their fears.

Whatever the challenge that lies before us, a strong faith and secure hope in God's guidance, can stand us in good stead .

Forest Church faces new challenges and the adjustment to a new regime following the retirement of Rector Claire, but we can all pull together and be helpful and supportive as we go forward together on our journey of faith. Wishing you every blessing in this Autumn Season.

Margaret Boden Heaume L.L.M.



Ste Marguerite de la Foret



September 2025

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Church flowers in September

Sept 7th
Nancy Smith

Sept 14th
Fatima Freitas

Sept 21st
Fatima Freitas

Sept 28th
Viv Rees

Greeting

Sept 7th Nancy Smith

Sept 14th Fiona Roland

Sept 21st Debbie Dorey

Sept 28th Brenda Tostevin

Bishop Stephen's letter

September is always a month of endings, as well as new beginnings. As the bright colours of summer fade into the oranges and browns of autumn, shiny new school shoes make an appearance, along with fresh notebooks as we head back to our desks after a break over August. We start again, carrying with us the feeling of a new year beginning.



September then is always a month of change, and because of this it can be unsettling. We reflect on or maybe grieve for that which is drawing to a close, and can feel a mixture of anticipation about what is new or next. It is likely that we feel this even more acutely this September, living in a world which feels increasingly insecure from the perspective of fast-changing global politics and conflicts around the world that show no sign of abating. All is changing; all feels very fragile and deeply uncertain.

One of this country's much-loved hymns is 'Abide with Me', famous for being sung at every FA Cup Final since 1927. The words are based on Luke 24: 29 and were written by the Reverend Henry Francis Lyte, with one of the stories about this suggesting that he wrote them in September 1847 – just after he had conducted his final church service and when very ill with tuberculosis. He died two months later.

Putting aside questions of when Lyte wrote these words, the fact remains that they capture the constancy of God's presence and love, even as the seasons change, our lives change, our world changes; in life and in death:

Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

This then is a beautiful reminder that even though we, and indeed our world, pass through times of change and can feel unsettled as a result, God goes with us. God in Christ abides with us, his presence and love unchanging in our ever-changing world:

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. (Luke 24: 29)

Church events in August

We are delighted to welcome Adrian Datta as Rector of the Forest Parish Church from 1st September.

His appointment has happened very quickly and so arrangements to cover services for the rest of the year are still being prepared. Please note change of service times

Tuesday 2nd September. 2pm-4pm

Knit and Natter in church.

Why not join a friendly group who come together to make things and enjoy a cup of tea and company.

Wednesday September 10th 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning

A monthly morning meeting for company with friends.

Sunday September 7th 11.30am

Tumaini service with Dr Sue Wilson

A chance to see the amazing range of clothing made to give to the young people in Kagera to enable them to go to school and further progress.



Thoughts for September By Revd. Adrian Datta



“Are we nearly there yet?” is the phrase often heard by young children on a long car journey. Implicit in this question is an excitement at arrival at the anticipated destination and a frustration about the length of a boring and interminable journey. Often it is said that it is the journey and not the destination that is important. The phrases of “enjoy the view”; “trust the process”; and “be patient, we will soon be there” are all offered as sage retorts to such lines of enquiry. This really is true - something I learnt first hand when walked the Camino de Compestella across northern Spain last April and May. Again and again I would be greeted with the exclamation “Buen Camino!” which was both reassuring and encouraging. “Good journey” is the message and not “we are nearly there” or “not long to go yet”.

Eugene Peterson, the gifted writer and Bible translator of The Message, in 1980, published a book on the Psalms entitled “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction”. This is so true about life. One foot faithfully in front of the other. Best foot forward. Onward and upward. If we all pull together we will push our way through. Each of us have been entrusted with a baton to run with from those that have gone before and we must discharge our duty with faithfulness, kindness and largesse. I know it is not always easy but I also know at times it can be joyful and life-giving.

As a church community, we find ourselves at a point of change. Change can make us uncomfortable and uneasy. I know that experience well. Change can also be a door of opportunity to new possibilities and green pastures that we did not know were possible or present. In reality, we can experience both uneasiness and optimism simultaneously, but when these are mixed with faith we begin to see things

Welcome to Forest September 2025

differently. Jesus' words to Peter and his friends "launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught" were met with both resistance, incredulity and belief. They did it and it worked!!

In our lives individually, as families and as a faith community we are invited to put our hands in the hand of the One who holds everything together by the word of his power.

He holds as paramount our welfare and the welfare of the wider community. He is the Good Shepherd and we can and do hear his voice.

It has been necessary to alter the morning service time from 11:00 am to 11:30am. This will commence from Sunday 7th September. I am sorry this has been a decision that I have taken as your Rector designate without consultation with everybody affected but it is impossible for me to be in two places at once. From Saturday 6th September we will be holding a 5pm Book of Common Prayer Communion Service every Saturday. There will be no sermon and the service will last no more than 30 minutes. This means that Forest will double the number of scheduled services per year from fifty-two to one hundred and four. We will review these service changes as we go forward and will in future have sufficient time for meaningful consultation.

I ask that you pray for me and my family. My desire is that I will be a loving pastor to you all and a creative and kind community leader for the Forest Parish. The journey ahead is one we must do together - others will join us and we will be fun, joy and laughter but it will also be hard work at times. Such is life!

With love and prayers
Adrian

PS The best way to contact me is by WhatsApp message and my phone number is 07781 177177. If I have not answer in 48 hours, please resend your message as sometimes I can miss messages. Emails can be sent to adriandatta@icloud.com.

Saturday September 6th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday September 7th 11.30am Tumaini service
Reader: Debbie Dorey. Deuteronomy 30 v15-end
Philemon 1-21

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch

Saturday September 13th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday September 14th 11.30am
Reader: Susie Mowbray. Exodus 32 v7-14
1 Timothy v12-17

Prayers: Viv Rees

Saturday September 20th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday September 21st 11.30am
Reader: Mike Spiller. Amos 8 v 4-7
1 Timothy 2 v1-7

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Saturday September 27th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday September 28th 11.30am
Reader: Linda Archard. Amos 6 v1a, 4-7
1 Timothy 6 v6-19

Prayers: Debbie Dorey

Saturday October 4th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday October 5th 11.30am
Reader: Debbie Dorey. Habakkuk1 v1-4, 2 v1-4
2 Timothy 1 v1-14

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch