



St Mark's Church, Reigate

September 2024

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends,

I always feel that September is a month of new beginnings, and often new beginnings come after something else comes to an end. A few weeks ago children and parents geared up to the end of term, the end of the school year, perhaps even the end of schooling for some! Perhaps a period of employment ended before the summer break. As different things come to an end, new beginnings will be ahead – new classes, university, college, retirement, moving to a new house, new relationships, a new job with new challenges and I am sure you can think of many more, perhaps some you are experiencing yourself.

I wonder how many of these things however exciting they are may be, actually fill us with apprehension or anxiety, and how many we run towards with excitement and vigour, or perhaps a mixture of both. Yet each new day has the opportunity for something new, something exciting, a new chapter to embrace. A chance to invite God into those new beginnings, and to ask Him for his strength, support, encouragement and guidance.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5.17). This verse, written by St Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, is an incredible promise for all who choose a new beginning, a fresh start, in Jesus Christ. A promise for anyone, not those who have it all wrapped up and sorted, or know the bible chapter and verse, or those who are 'perfect' in every way, but for anyone to come and be a new creation in Jesus Christ.

Change can be scary, can be daunting, can feel like stepping into the unknown, but in Christ we are changed and continue to be changed as God works both for us and in us. What an incredible gift that is, a gift for the here and now, for us to receive. God longs to do a new thing in all our lives.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing for this month ahead as you reflect on the endings and look forward to new beginnings.

With every blessing.