



St Mark's Church, Reigate

June 2026

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends

One great phrase of the Church of England, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is 'Ordinary Time'. While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months into the autumn is 'Ordinary Time'! Sometimes this time is known as the Sundays after Trinity, but the phrase 'Ordinary Time' is a better description of the period between Pentecost and All Saints' Day (1st November) as it has something to teach us of the nature of God.

A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate is its suggestion. But just because it is 'Ordinary', it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us, life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So, it should be no surprise that Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church calendar.

Abraham Lincoln once said that: "God must love ordinary people because he made so many of them!" Ordinary people, need 'Ordinary Time'. Sundays and weekdays in-between, to sense God's presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him (Lent) but he is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

So as we start this long season of 'Ordinary Time', let us all use this time wisely to focus on our relationship with God, how in our ordinary lives we can encounter the living God, not just at Christmas and Easter, the great Festivals of the Church, but each and every day.

With every blessing,