

Reflection

The start of September is, in many ways, a time of new beginnings – at least as much as New Year's Day is. Many people have been on their summer holidays and are returning to their 'normal' routine, or maybe a new job; school children are starting with a new class teacher, or even a new school; teachers themselves may be starting with new colleagues, a new class, and possibly a new location; and in a more frivolous area football fans have just started a new season with great optimism (at least until that first sobering defeat!). Some parishes will also be welcoming new vicars and rectors (can you think of one in that position?)

Such changes, such new beginnings, are part of life, of living in time. They may fill us with joy and anticipation if we are looking forward to our new situations, or concern and nervousness if we are not sure how we will cope; and sometimes we experience regret at what we are leaving behind.

Today we will be thinking about, and celebrating, the start of a new school year. For some younger children this will be their very first term, possibly the first time away from their parents. Others, in later years, will be meeting up again with friends they haven't seen for a whole six weeks; or maybe starting as the youngest cohort in a new school full of older savvy young adults after being the 'biggest kids' in their former school just a couple of months before. And teachers may be looking forward to meeting a new class, or dreading teaching the same stuff yet again. We will pray for them all!

Because God is with us in all the changes in our lives. He has the power, and the will, to help us when times are hard for us, as he helps the disciples in today's gospel reading from Matthew. He can be relied on to always be full of mercy, justice and love, and to guide us as we change/are changed into the people he wants us to be, fit for eternal life in his kingdom.

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



NEXT SUNDAY 13.09.26 Trinity 15

10.30am in the Church



OT Genesis 50: 15-21

NT Romans 14: 1-12

GOSPEL Matthew 18: 21-35

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St Thomas, Exeter

6th September 2026

Creation In Christ

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

21 *All things bright and beautiful*

557 *Who put the colours in the rainbow*

137 *For the beauty of the earth*

9 *All creatures of our God and King*

Monday 7th September

7.30pm Institution, Induction & Licensing of
the Reverend Hannah Alderson

Wednesday 9th September

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 10th September

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny
Tuckett's house

Friday 11th September

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 12th September

9am St Thomas Breakfast in the Sawyers.
All welcome



Collect

Holy and eternal God, you are the Maker of heaven and earth, you are the Word through whom all things were made, and you are the Spirit, the giver of life: draw us into the mystery of your love, that with all creation we may proclaim your praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Isaiah 55: 12, 13

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 8: 23-27

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

Post Communion

God our Creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

Today we welcome the **Venerable Andrew**

Beane to preside and preach at our service

Rev Hannah Alderson, our new Rector, will be licensed to our parish at 7.30pm on **Monday 7th September**. Please continue to pray for Hannah and her family as they prepare to move into our community.

Saturday 19th September 6pm

The Churchwardens and PCC of the Parish of St Peter, Budleigh Salterton warmly invite you to come and welcome the Revd Sarah Mounoury as Vicar of the Parish of St Peter, Budleigh Salterton at a service of Institution, Induction and Licensing.

Anyone who has an email can RSVP to raleighmc@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days. On Saturdays 12th and 19th September the bellringers will be holding drop in sessions to learn more about bellringing in our church, and on 19th September Ian will be running short tours of the church highlighting the history and heritage of our building. Come along and learn something new!

St Petrock's have published their Harvest Festival Wishlist 2026

St Petrock's Harvest Festival Wishlist 2026

Rough Sleeper Items:

- Sleeping Bags
- Rucksacks / Backpacks
- Trailmix (Men's & Women's)
- Jeans & Joggers (Men's & Women's)
- New Men's Socks
- New Women's Underwear in sizes 6, 8, 10 & 12
- Small Sports bras
- Small Women's Leggings
- T-shirts
- Hoodies
- Belts
- Both thick and thin socks

Packaged Items:

- Alfalfa
- Plain & Self-raising Flour
- Granulated Sugar
- UHT/Long-life Milk
- Powdered Milk
- Instant Coffee
- Instant Hot Chocolate
- Fruit Squash - Orange, Blackcurrant
- Individually wrapped biscuits (Penguins, Bixies etc)
- Cereal (Coco pops, Weetabix, Cornflakes)
- Biscuits
- Mince (Jug/8.5oz, Honey & Marzipan)
- Cooking Oil
- Golden Syrup
- Tamato Puree
- Mustard, Mayonnaise, Branston Pickle, Ketchup & Brown Sauce
- Mixed Herbs & Garlic Salt

Cleaning & Hygiene Items:

- Anti-bacterial Spray
- Bleach/Washing Powder
- Washing up Liquid
- Talcum Powder
- Wet Wipes
- Men's & Women's Deodorant
- Men's & Women's Disposable Razors
- Shaving Foam

Miscellaneous Items:

- Blankets
- Insulated Cans
- Battery Packs for phones
- Sandwich bags
- Blankets

Smaller donations (4 small bags or under) can be taken to the Men's Methodist Church Centre, Fosse St, D36 5AT. There is a car drop-off at the front of the church. (9.45am - 11.45am Mon - Thurs / 9.45am - 11.45am Fri). For larger donations, please take them to Enter Food Aid at The Space Place, Alpha Brook Rd, Exeter EX2 8RD weekdays 9am - 12noon. You can also donate items via our Amazon Wishlist.

Scan to make a Financial Donation

Last year you helped provide 1,069 sleeping bags (83% increase over last year) and 16,025 meals (11% increase) for people experiencing homelessness in Exeter. Thank you!