**September Magazine**

**September is a month for seasonal transition, or for many a return from summer holidays.**

**The long hot days will start to decrease as we head into early autumn, apples, pears, plums will be ripening, and the summer flowers will be receding.**

**Children, students, teachers and related staff will all be returning to work after the summer break with some relief from parents! Some students will be entering a new stage by joining a new school or college many with anxiety. Others will be making plans because of examination passes or failures. Others will be leaving education to enter the world of employment, learning to drive, leaving home.**

**Some of us are saying goodbye to long standing neighbours and moving house to a new part of the country.**

**Some might be thinking of starting to come to a church or considering a baptism or a wedding, being confirmed or exploring a new sense of vocation and calling.**

**For many of us, we will again reflect on how the years are flying by, some with trepidation as the signs of older age become more apparent, or as retirement approaches with the end of employment or career.**

**In the Church there are prayers to reflect the many times of transition we go through in life, prayers to bring hope and comfort, reassurance and peace, from birth to death.**

**I particularly like this prayer written by Tess Ward which is intended to be a prayer for the coming of age, but I think it can be adapted for every new transition we enter in life.**

***“As you emerge from the tangled wood of requirement and step out in a direction of your own choosing, may you be unfrightened by your fear. May you take the time to hear your voice into speech. May you honour the tides and rhythms of your body and enjoy the ripeness of your beauty and vigour so you may cherish one another. May you find a safe hearth in friends who see you and delight in you. May your hands find work that prospers a little and satisfies plenty, and do not refuse the world the gift that only you can give. May you laugh and play and never lose your imagination so responsibility will not diminish you. May you awake at the wonder of the earth and see the single flame that lights every living thing. Go bravely and greet each new horizon with trust and gratitude, and may God bless you on your journey and let flourish the person you were made to be.” (‘Alternative Pastoral Prayers’ Canterbury Press 2nd edition 2017)***

**If you are going through a time of transition and need some support, please get in touch.**

**Every peace.**

**Rev James.**