

September: A Season of Renewal, Gratitude and Reflection

September and October bring us again to our annual time of Harvest services and thanksgiving a time to reflect on the abundance of God's provision to us in nature.

September can overlap with the Hebrew month of Tishrei, although the exact dates vary because the Hebrew calendar is lunar. Tishrei holds a significant place in the biblical calendar, bringing together themes of spiritual renewal, reflection and communal celebration.

Viewed through the themes associated with Tishrei, September offers an invitation to pause and take stock of your spiritual journey. It is a time to gather your thoughts, set fresh intentions and deepen your connection with God, allowing reflection to lead to purposeful action.

September also brings visible change in the natural world as summer gives way to autumn and the harvest season begins. The gathering of crops offers a powerful image of reaping the fruits of labour and recognising God's provision. In response, you might make gratitude a daily practice by noticing and acknowledging the gifts received throughout the year.

The thanksgiving celebrations acknowledge God's faithfulness and provision while recalling the importance of generosity towards those in need. In this way, gratitude becomes more than a private feeling: it is expressed by sharing with others and strengthening the wider community.

September therefore carries rich symbolism. Its movement from summer into autumn can prompt spiritual preparedness and reflection: days shorten, leaves change colour and the landscape enters a new season. These visible cycles of change offer an opportunity to appreciate

God's creation and consider the changes taking place in our own spiritual life.

September invites us to embrace renewal and reflection. As you engage with the season's traditions and teachings, take time to consider your spiritual journey, set fresh intentions and strengthen your connections with others.

By practising gratitude and supporting your community, you can cultivate a deeper sense of purpose. Let September remind you both of the blessings already present and of the opportunities for growth ahead and carry that spirit of reflection, generosity and renewal into the months that follow.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss.

Every blessing.

Rev James